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JAN 28 1901



VOL. 24

## JANUARY 1901

Janus, the ancient Italic deity for whom January is named, presided over the beginning of human life, over gateways and openings, at the dawn of day, and at the advent of the agricultural year. The Roman armies marched under his archway as they went forth to war. His temple was closed only in times of universal peace.

"Janus am I; oldest of Potentates;
Forward I look, and backward, and below,
I count, as god of avenues and gates,
The years that through my portals come and go."

From this far-off source we have come to reckon the new year. At first, it seems unscientific and of doubtful propriety. When animals are benumbed by cold, vegetation asleep with roots nestling under the soft coverlet of snow, vegetables and fruits dead, and flowers withered, the running stream mantled with ice, the lake that was curled by every breeze now transformed into a plain, the moist ground dried up and made as hard as a rock, the sun hanging in the distant Southern sky, the pale moon and brilliant galaxy of stars looking down upon a frozen world, why not April rather than January? But the new year follows close on the shortest day of the old year, so that with lengthening days and increase of sunshine, the new year may be scientifically considered as properly begun.

Along with the new year has also come the new century, with its increased privileges, enlarged opportunities and brighter hopes. This is a landmark in the history of the world and a trumpet call to duty. The nations of Europe armed to the teeth, stand watching each other but the balance of power is slowly but surely passing into the hands of the people. Our own nation has entered upon a new era with more patriotic fervor and with a wider outlook. In the rapid accumulation of wealth and increased luxuries, the elements of true, virile manhood suffer loss, yet the brotherhood of man is daily receiving a new emphasis, and men are learning more of the duty of privilege. White harvests are waiting for gleaners in every field as the new century opens up before us. Bravely, patiently, and cheerfully, with mutual hand-clasp and encouragement, let us greet Old Time with a smile as we go forth to victory.

F. J. CHASE, PH. D.

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NO. 11



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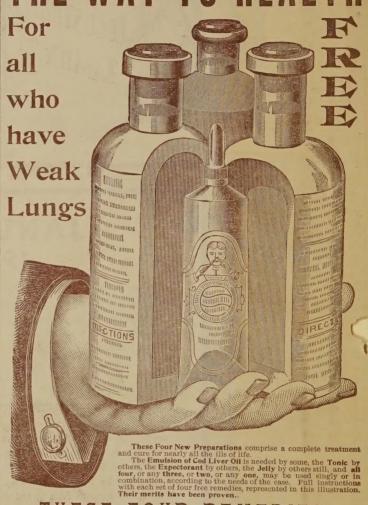
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# HE WAY TO HEAD



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Very truly yours,

P. C. DEDERICK.



# VICK'S



# ILLUSTRATED FAMILY MAGAZINE

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No. 11

#### SCOTCH ROSES.

Every garden and "front yard" of the old Scotch settlers was sure to contain some Scotch roses, and in many they grew in profusion. Whether it was the name, or because these roses were natives of Scotland—and anything which reminded the Scot of his native land was dear to him;—or whether their sturdy virtues endeared them to these hardy, self-reliant people, it would be impossible now to tell. The fact remains, however, that they were indispensable features in the old-time Scotch gardens, and were generally cultivated in those of other people, not so very many years ago.

At the present time, though, their dainty blossoms are favorites with all who love the old-fashioned flowers, it is only occasionally that one sees a Scotch rose. In modern gardens, if planted at all, they are most likely to be in the background, or in some out-of-the-way place, giving precedence to other gayer but not always more deserving varieties.

But the Scotch roses are deserving of cultivation in every garden; they are proof against frost and snow, wind and storm, and if carefully planted at first they will need neither pruning, training nor protection. If the ground be well spaded and fertilized when the plants are put in, they will take care of themselves better than any other variety. They are not subject to the green fly, or to mildew, and in this age, when most roses need so much attention

that one sometimes doubts if even the queen of flowers is worth so much trouble and hard work, it is a delight to have some bushes which will thrive for years without special attention. The only objection which can be urged against them is, that they are true to name (Rosa Spinosissima) and their stems are thorny.

Scotch roses are not particular as to the soil, and if the ground is poor, a mulching of manure in November will keep them in good condition. Fall is the preferable time for setting them out, and they do best when planted in a place by themselves, as then they throw up suckers from the base and soon entirely cover the ground. As the bushes do not usually grow more than two or three feet high, and flower freely at every joint, they make a very ornamental plant when in

bloom and their fine foliage makes them attractive at any time. The flower stems are short, and rather thorny, and, in consequence, they are usually considered more valuable for garden roses than for cutting, unless a whole spray of blooms be gathered at once.

There are numerous varieties of the Scotch rose, varying in color from white to a delicate, mottled pink, and all equally fragrant. Most of them are only summer bloomers, but they come into flower before the generality of roses, so that they are especially welcome. There is one variety which bears very showy yellow blossoms.

STANWELL PERPETUAL ROSE.

but they are not nearly as pretty as the more delicately colored ones. The pink-flowered varieties are usually more double than the white ones.

One of the prettiest and most fragrant varieties is a hybrid rose which is classed with the Scotch, but which differs from the type in some particulars; it is called the Stanwell Perpetual. This rose, though possessing many admirable qualities, is, not very generally cultivated, and it is not listed in many catalogues. A fine specimen is growing on the grounds of Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, of this city, and the bush when in bloom was so beautiful that it seemed worthy of special mention.

The ordinary Scotch roses are low-growing, but the Stanwell Perpetual attains a height of five feet or more and forms a fine large bush. The foliage is small, like the other Scotch roses, having nine to eleven leaflets. The branches are reddish brown with numerous small spines. The flowers are blush in color when they first open, but when fully expanded become almost white; they are of medium size, double, and most delightfully fragrant. The buds are perfection in form, and when half open are exceedingly pretty.

The Stanwell Perpetual blossoms early in June, a little before the other roses, and again in the fall. The blossoms are freely produced, both early and late, and the blooming season is some-

times prolonged into October.

The delicate color and the exquisite fragrance of the blossoms are strong points in favor of the Stanwell Perpetual, and its profusion of bloom is another recommendation. Like the Sweet Briar roses, it should not be trimmed, so that in time large bushes are formed and a well-established plant is literally covered with blossoms, making a beautiful sight.

Another point in its, favor is that the flowers are borne singly on the stem. How often one hesitates to pick a rose of some beautiful variety because in doing so several buds have to be sacrificed. Of the Stanwell Perpetual one can cut freely without sacrificing future blooms.

The accompanying illustration does not do justice to this really charming and very desirable rose, but in the branch shown

one can see the general characteristics of the flowers and the profusion in which they are borne.

Souvenir of Henry Clay is another hybrid, with rose-colored blossoms of medium size. This variety also blooms in the fall.

Considering the fact that the Scotch roses will grow in soils and situations where other roses would assuredly fail, and not only grow, but produce an abundance of delicately colored, exceedingly fragrant blossoms, they are surely worthy of more general cultivation. Any one who likes dainty, fragrant roses, cannot fail to be pleased with them.

We can supply a limited number of these rose bushes as premiums and will send one thrifty bush and the magazine one year for only \$1.20. Order at once to be sure of it.

# The Daughter of Rubens By Clifford Scollard.

The last rays of the setting sun penetrated the heavily draped windows of a large and spacious apartment and fell aslant the half-exposed canvas upon which was pictured in fresh and glowing colors a newly finished Madonna and Child. Before the easel sat the painter Rubens-a man of some fifty-five summers-with his eyes fixed intently upon the warmly tinted picture, his arms folded complacently across his breast, and his whole soul, as it were, reveling in the flood of golden light which seemed to invest the head of mother and son with a soft and heavenly lustre. The shadows of evening were already deepening into twilight, when a faint tap at the door aroused the artist from the long reverie into which he had fallen. Rubens started, and in a low voice said :-

"Come in."

The door opened, and a tall and graceful youth, who had numbered some twenty years, entered, bearing in his hand a portfolio and sketchbook. With a modest mien and faltering step the young man advanced toward the artist, who had risen from his seat and now stood quietly surveying the intruder. For a moment silence was preserved by both; at last the former ventured to speak:—

"I have come to request the great favor of becoming a pupil of the illustrious world-renowned Rubens."

"May I ask by what means you have become so well acquainted with my labors in the field of painting, that you thus eulogize and extol me?" said the old man calmly.

"Sir," replied the youth with enthusiasm, "are not the galleries of Brussels freighted with the rich productions of your skilful pencil?"

"You have been in Brussels, then?" said Rubens, with an inquiring glance.

"Yes, I have sojourned there for the past ten years of my life. My history is a short one, and if I am not encroaching upon your patience I will give it to you at once," said the young man with a sorrowful glance.

"I pray you to relate it. My ears are most attentive listeners," said the old man, becoming momentarily more and more interested in the strange youth before him.

The two being seated, the younger commenced the recital of his tale.

"My earliest recollections of home were in Rome, that glorious city of the past. My father, Alexander del Sarto, was an artist, professing ever a strong love and attachment for his favorite and chosen profession. But in Rome his efforts were slightly appreciated, and the trivial sums received by him from the sale of his pictures were quite insufficient for the daily support of his family. Discouraged and vexed at his want of success, my father conceived the somewhat rash idea of visiting Brussels to try once again his luck in painting. Accompanied by his wife and two children, he embarked for Brussels with many hopes and bright visions of future success. Arriving there safely, our little family had hardly

established themselves before my little and only sister was seized with a terrible fever. The day which dawned upon her burial witnessed, also, the complete prostration of my father; and ere two weeks had flown, the inanimate body of my beloved father was laid beside that of my sister."

At this point of his life's sad history, the young man paused, while tears coursed slowly down his cheeks.

. "And your father's property!" said Rubens, his heart's deep sympathies fairly aroused.

"Alas! the only inheritance left to his orphan child was a natural taste and inclination for that same profession in the pursuance of which fortune had only tempted but to frown upon him."

I will not further detail the particulars of that protracted meeting. Suffice it to say that the next morning found Andrea del Sarto an inmate of the studio of the painter Rubens, not-withstanding the latter had long since openly avowed his determination to receive no more pupils.

Months passed, and the young student had made rapid progress in his studies. Rubens himself was delighted with the fertile genius and wondrous talents of his protege. Already had he entrusted Andrea del Sarto with the execution of many family portraits, for which he had received orders; and although such pictures were supposed by the public to be the genuine productions of Rubens' skilful pencil, it was sufficient compensation in the eyes of Andrea to know that his style was so near the counterpart of his master's as scarcely to be distinguishable from the artist's work except by the most fastidious and critical eye.

On entering his studio one morning, Rubens found his pupil apparently so much absorbed in the contemplation of a miniature which he held in his hand as to be entirely unconscious of the existence of outward circumstances. Perceiving that his entrance had been unnoticed by the youth, the master advanced noiselessly behind the chair of the young man and glanced at the miniature before him which was one of female loveliness. It was executed upon ivory and was a work of rare merit. As the old man's gaze rested upon it, he started back and uttered an exclamation of surprise, which caused Andrea to turn quickly around. For a moment Andrea stood dismayed and overwhelmed with confusion as his eyes encountered the stern gaze of his master. The latter, however, recovered himself and said:-

"You will doubtless wonder at the emotion betrayed by me when my eye fell upon the miniature with whose great beauty you seemed lost and rapt in admiration. It was the striking resemblance which the picture bore to the face of my only daughter which arrested my attention and surprise; for never before have these eyes, so accustomed to look upon the human face in its greatest variety, beheld a face so ethereal in its perfect loveliness as is that of Clara Rubens." A smile passed over the face of the old man, as turning to his companion he quickly added: "I trust you will pardon a father's vanity in having thus frankly spoken of the beauty of his child."

"Most assuredly, Sir," said Andrea respectfully, "it would give me much pleasure to know the daughter of my honored and beloved master. In regard to the original of the miniature which you found me examining," said the youth, slightly

coloring, "I must tell you that I know almost as little concerning her as yourself, the miniature having come into my possession under very peculiar circumstances."

"Indeed! Perchance it is some ideal creation of the painter's fancy," said Ruben's good-naturedly.

"Oh, no! You are mistaken," said Andrea quickly, "for it was from the hands of the original that I received it, some three years ago."

"Some lost friend, perhaps?" queried Rubens.
"Listen, and I will tell you the circumstances which made me the happy possessor," replied the young artist.

"It was early one summer evening, some three years ago, that, heated and fatigued by the extreme sultriness of the day, I strolled into the country. Indifferent to both time and distance, I wandered on, scarce knowing where I went, until I found myself in the midst of a great tract of woods, some three or four miles from the city. I was just upon the point of retracing my steps homeward when a loud shriek rang through the woods. At first I supposed it to be the scream of some night bird, making still more desolate the solitude of the place. I paused. Again that cry of distress fell upon my ear. Half breathless, I hastened forward toward the spot from which the sound proceeded. But all around me was darkness and gloom, while a gentle breeze sighed through the thick and overspreading foliage. The ground beneath my feet was cold and damp, and a chilling sensation began to creep through my veins. Still I hastened on, while the sounds, which I now supposed to proceed from some human voice, seemed growing fainter and fainter. Suddenly a dim light, as from a lantern, attracted my attention. The feeble light served as a beacon to guide me onward in my path of duty. I sprang forward, and ere many moments I had reached the spot of action. As I neared the thicket I heard the pawing of hoofs upon the ground, as of a steed impatient to be gone. At this moment a stream of light issuing from the lantern revealed to my sight the slight form of a girl some fifteen summers, struggling in the embraces of a large and swarthy-looking man. I could bear no more. Seizing a broken bough which lay near, I cautiously advanced from behind a tree and aimed a blow at the villian. With a muttered curse he fell senseless. It was but the work of an instant for me to spring forward and release the horse tied to a tree; then lifting the fainting form of the girl from the ground, I sprang into the saddle and we were soon out of reach of harm. I had not ridden far before my companion began slowly to revive, the heavy night dew acting as a restorative to her senses; and from her trembling lips I learned the particulars of that fearful adventure from which I had rescued her.

"A stranger in Brussels, she had ridden forth toward sunset, into the country; but being suddenly overtaken by night, she had lost her way. Passing through the woods, her passage was arrested by the strong arm of a man who seized the reins of her horse and in a loud voice demanded her purse. The girl, terrified with fear, obeyed; but even that did not satisfy the rufflan, and tearing her from the saddle, he took the few jewels which she wore. Having succeeded in gaining all but a small diamond cross, it was in her struggle

for the keeping of that precious relic that Providence appointed me her deliverer. The next day I received a note from her, expressive of her heart's deep gratitude and urging my acceptance of this little miniature likeness of herself until time could better reward me for the service rendered her."

"And have you never seen the lady since that eventful night?" said Rubens as Andrea concluded his narrative.

"No; as she steadily refused disclosing her name, and was not a resident of Brussels, it was in vain that I sought to find her out; and though three years have passed, thus far success has baffled all my effort to obtain a clue to her whereabouts."

"A strange bit of romance, truly," said Rubens, rubbing his hands smartly together and taking his hat to leave.

It was not many weeks after the above conversation before the youthful artist was called to attend the bedside of his dying mother. With mingled feelings of sorrow and regret, Andrea del Sarto bade adieu to one who, out of the boundless charities of his heart, had done so much toward shaping the future of the young artist. Rubens, with tears in his eyes and a prayer upon his lips for the success and prosperity of the untiring student, witnessed the departure of Andrea for Brussels.

One month from the time of his return home the master received a letter from his protege announcing the death of his only surviving relative. Impressed by the bitter loneliness of his situation, now that all who were dear to his heart had been taken from him, determined to seek his fortune in some distant quarter of the globe, when, God granting him success, he would return to Antwerp, there to lay his hard-earned laurels at the feet of his respected patron and master, and spend the remaining years of his life. Such was the bright picture of the future which the young enthusiast beheld in his day-dreams. Would to God that the reality were always as beautiful and truthful as the ideal!

In luxurious apartments of one of the most beautiful hotels upon the Rue de la Francie, lived the beautiful and accomplished daughter of the artist Rubens.

The somewhat slight, yet fully developed form, the rose-tinted complexion, the pale and lofty brow, over which a shower of golden ringlets clustered in rich profusion, the deep and azure blue of her eyes, together with the sweet and radiant smile which ever illumined her countenance, combined to make Clara Rubens a vision of almost angelic loveliness.

Four years have passed since the opening of our story, and as the youthful bud of promise gradually developed into the full-blown rose, her father watched with tender solicitude the daily expansion of the charms of both soul and body of his idealized child. Yes, Clara Rubens was fair to look upon. All Antwerp rendered her homage. Sonnets were indited to her, musical ballads were dedicated to her, while her fairy-like portrait graced, not only the walls of the gallery of fine arts but was found embodied in many a sculptor's group in the numerous studios of Antwerp.

The daughter of Rubens was in the twenty-

second year of her age; and though she had never failed for lack of admirers and suitors for her hand in marriage, yet up to that time the fair girl had courteously declined all proposals. Her father, conscious of the decay of nature and his declining years, was anxious to see his only child the established wife and partner of some person worthy her position in life. Having communicated this desire to his child one morning, to his great surprise he found that Clara, who had ever been set and immovable on that point, now yielded a ready assent to his wishes. The following plan, by which to make choice of a husband, was conceived and proposed to his daughter, which, having met with her acceptance, ran as follows:—

As Clara Rubens, besides possessing wondrous beauty, was also a reputed heiress, she would



doubtless receive numberless offers from both wealthy and matrimonial speculators. To prevent any ambitious and unworthy motives on the part of the lovers of his daughter, it was publicly announced in the journals of the day that to him who should be artist enough to cut from a solid piece of iron an elaborate and beautiful wreath of roses only by the aid of the hammer and chisel, in an allotted space of time, should be given the daughter of Rubens in marriage.

As the list of competitors to the prize was open to both old and young, poor and rich, of the opposite sex, its columns were not long in filling. Three days only was the list to be kept open, at the end of which time it was to be closed and sealed, and they who had enrolled their names thereon were to be granted a week's time only for the success or failure of their work. Sculptors who had gained many laurels in their profession embarked with new zeal upon this exhibition of skill, while many hands that had never been accustomed to the use of the chisel were none the

less anxious to compete for the rare prize offered them.

It was near the close of the last week for which the list of candidates to the hand of Clara Rubens in marriage was to be kept open that a stranger sauntered along through the principal thoroughfare of Antwerp. A close observer would at once recognize in the tall yet finely molded man the once poor student of the artist Rubens. There was the same degree of enthusiasm which manifested itself in the early part of his studies still gleaming from the depths of his large and expressive eyes; but the few lines of care visible upon his broad and expansive forehead showed plainly that Andrea del Sarto had been unremitting in the toils and labors of his profession. It is true, he had gained riches; but what did

that avail him, since they with whom he would gladly have shared his last franc were one by one snatched from his grasp? For years he had wandered the earth, like an Orpheus, in search of his loved yet lost Eurydice; and although he had long since despaired of ever seeing again, on the face of the globe, the original of the miniature which he still held sacred, he looked forward with all the faith of his spiritual nature to the time when he should meet in heaven at last the ideal of his soul.

As the young man glanced about him, as his eye recognized from time to time some familiar object, his attention was suddenly attracted to a notice placed in a window of one of the large warehouses. Surprised beyond measure at its words of import, Andrea del Sarto entered the store and requested permission to place his name upon the list of competitors. He was told that the list was already full; and in a few moments would be withdrawn, but that if he was particularly anxious to enlist in such a cause, and could find a place whereon to write his name, he was welcome to do so. The artist, perceiving that the names of some of the first sculptors and artists in Antwerp and Brussels were down, resolved to try his chance in the game, for a mere lottery it seemed to be in his eyes. So filling up the only remaining space at the bottom of the list with his name, written in a very fine and disguised hand,

Andrea del Sarto left the store.

His first thought was to call at once upon his former teacher and reveal his intention of contending for the prize, but when he recollected that the effort he was about to make was an entirely new feature in his profession, his small chance of success dwindled into nothingness; and with a degree of pride peculiarly his own he resolved to conceal himself from his friend's sight until the day appointed for the awarding of the prize. So taking lodgings in an obscure part of the city, Andrea procured a large piece of iron, although it the price of iron having been raised at that time on account of the unusual demand for it, and steadfastly set about his new work.

A week was but a short time for the execution of so elaborate a piece of workmanship, with only such rough tools as were allowed; but still the young man toiled from daybreak till nearly midnight, allowing himself but little or no sleep and refreshment. (Continued on page 19)

## About Flowers

#### Chinese Primroses.

One of the most desirable plants for growing indoors, -and it adapts itself quite readily to outdoor conditions,—is the Chinese primrose. A free winter bloomer, its transference to the border or the garden in spring hardly decreases its blooming habit through most of the summer. Unlike most of our house plants the primrose fraternizes



with the ferns in so far that its best development and blooming habit is not dependent upon sunshine. Good light the plants need, but the direct rays of the sun upon them much of the time is a positive detriment. Hence a north window with a quite low temperature are conditions suited to the well being of these beautiful plants. If compelled to keep them in a sunny exposure, a screen of paper should be arranged to ward off the direct rays of the sun.

The primrose is a perennial, but it is a question whether it is not better to grow new plants from seed every year or two and thus have fresh plants. The plants after some three or four years old cease to have the vitality of younger plants, and the blooms grow smaller as winter advances. Although such plants may be profuse bloomers through the fall and fore part of winter.

The amateur will find the primulas a little difficult to grow from seed, but the satisfaction of saving a few plants and growing them up to the blossoming period will repay all the care and pains bestowed upon them. In the greenhouse the requisite conditions of gentle, uniform heat and moist air are easily provided, conditions not so easily fulfilled in the dwelling house, for if the fine, lightly covered seeds become dry after sowing in the moist earth, they are lost.

#### SOWING THE SEED.

The seeds may be sowed from March to August, but plants from late sown seeds will not come into bloom until spring. A fine, rich garden mould should be used, a light sprinkling sifted over the seeds, and the box set in a shallow basin in which the requisite moisture is graduated by pouring in water. Keep the box covered with glass a part of the time. The seed is slow in germinating, and care must be exercised that the glass covering is not kept on so constantly as to cause the soil to mould, a condition which destroys the vitality of the seeds. As soon as the plants show the first leaves, sprinkle a little soil which is mixed with sand around them to prevent "damping off."

There is quite a variety of coloring in the sev-

eral primroses. The pure white is the most satisfactory, although there is a deep red or carmine variety with white dots on the edges of the petals, known as punctata elegantissima, which is very pretty. There has been a great advance in size and form of these charming flowers within the past few years. There are several double fringed varieties, in colors crimson and red, and a magnificent white flowering sort. A packet of seeds cost but a few cents, and with a little more than ordinary care in sowing the 'seeds and providing proper conditions for their germination afterwards, a lot of plants which will be considered gems of beauty and elegance when in bloom will amply reward for the trouble.

L. F. Abbott.

#### Some Excellent Perennials.

Many busy people think they cannot have flowers, because they require so much time and care. This is a mistake,—there are many kinds of plants requiring very little care that give excellent satisfaction.

For a vellow flower to bloom late in August and from that time on through all the fall months, I know of nothing better than the Rudbeckia Golden Glow. A small root will increase rapidly, so that while there will be some flowers the first season the second will produce a large number. I never saw a plant so loaded with buds as the rudbeckia; every little stem and branch is covered with them and the flowers show a brilliant yellow which is not merely a "golden glow" but something rather



more tangible than a glow, it is a living, palpable, growing, blooming flower. The flowers resemble somewhat a chrysanthemum. I rather like the smaller flowers the best, they are more delicate and dainty for bouquets and house decoration, although a branch with a dozen to twenty golden flowers is not to be despised, taken as a whole. A small root of this plant will, in a couple of years, give many offshoots, and the plant may be divided or allowed to grow and increase in a great clump, almost like a small grove. I believe this plant to be entirely hardy even here in the Northwest, which is a good deal in its favor to those located in this section of the country. Last winter was such that a great many hardy plants perished all over the country, and some which I have had for years, that have lived through a

great deal, failed to come up in the spring, but the rudbeckia has not been daunted by such a trifle as the mercury, at either end of the thermometer. PHLOX AND DICENTRA.



Another excellent plant is the perennial phlox. This, when once established grows from year to year and increases a good deal annually. Its foliage is soft green in color and the flowers show a large variety of hues, some of the best being clear white. Its immense stalks of flowers are attractive in the garden and make good bouquets for large vases or jars, arranged with tall ferns or other light airy green.

A plant which is one of the most delicate and graceful is the dicentra or bleeding heart. This is well known but not as much cultivated as its real worth merits. The foliage is as fine cut and delicate as a fern. For real genuine grace and delicacy there are few plants in the open ground that can exceed the dicentra when grown in a good mass and not crowded too closely by other flowers.

#### DO NOT CROWD.

A great many plants require room and should be set away from others. Crowd a lot of flowers together and they lose their individuality and the whole is a conglomeration of colors which unless carefully arranged, is not pleasing. Plants like the rudbeckia are excellent to place in corners or even in clumps upon a green lawn; the perennial phlox and dicentra are good to set in the garden or to be placed singly where something is needed which is not as large as a shrub but larger than most annuals.

ACHILLEA-LARKSPUR-HOLLYHOCK.

The double-flowered form of Achillea ptarmica is another most desirable

plant of a shrubby nature. This has the advantage of blooming nearly all summer, which is a point in favor of almost any plant. The flowers are white and borne along the stems, almost making wreaths of them. This is fine for cemetery planting and is also quite as good for home use.

Perennial larkspurs present a feature quite their own. These may be had in the clearest, deepest blue, and really

there seem to be fewer good blue flowers than almost any other color.

Hollyhocks, too, are excellent. The flowers are produced in wonderful colors and shades, with satin texture and are set along the stems like great rosettes of satin ribbon.

#### GROWS BETTER-EACH YEAR.

In sections where the candidum lily will live through the winter I know of no flower more to be desired. It is like the pæony impatient of change, but when once well started it increases well, and where one or two bulbs were set a few years will show a large clump of the fresh green lily stalks crowned in season with their great clusters of snowy blossoms. The plants require almost no care after being once established. They will not thrive or grow in a wet location. This is true of a good many lilies. The old fashioned lemon lily or or Yellow Day Lily, Hemerocallis flava, is another hardy perennial, and this used to grow in the old home lawn amidst the grass and didn't seem to mind it at all. The tiger lily did the same and showed its brilliant flowers in great quantities. There are numerous perennial plants that even the busiest may have and that require very little

#### DAHLIAS AND PÆONIES.

Dahlias are very desirable and can be grown from seed if one so desires. The past summer I sowed dahlia seed, and they were put in late too, but they came up and the plants bloomed a good deal and would have bloomed more but the frost took them while yet in full bud. If they had been grown from roots instead of seeds, they would have given probably five or six times the amount of bloom, but as an experiment they were satisfactory.

Pæonies, too, are a good deal more desirable than many think. There are many varieties of them, besides the large crimson ones, which really



PAEONY.

do seem a little coarse and yet they make a bright spot on the lawn in blooming time. One of the best kinds is the double pink, with its coloring and fragrant flowers; these are beautiful almost anywhere, and a root once started will increase indefinitely. Pæonies do not like removal; they like to stay in the same place year after year undisturbed, and a good clump of them requires about the least care that any plant can possibly be expected to need.

ROSE SEELYE-MILLER.

South Dakota.

#### Indispensables.

Of all the varieties of nicotiana grown, N. affinis is the best known, though others are good.

Nicotiana colossea, making a quick, large growth the first season, is fine for single specimens on the lawn. Its immense leaves are of a rose or violet color when young, but when fully grown are green, with red veins. Its pronounced foliage and six feet of stature give it an imposing appearance when properly placed, of which the gardener with an eye to the "eternal fitness of things" is taking advantage.

N. colossea variegata, also fine for single speci-

mens, has leaves deeply edged with white, and the rapidity with which it grows to the height of five feet makes it valuable.

N. sylvestris is a newer sort, growing to about the same height, producing its pure white, tubelike flowers fully six inches in length in the greatest profusion.

N. affinis grows about three feet in height, is



NICOTIANA AFFINIS

easily propagated from seeds and cuttings, is a profuse bloomer, and according to this humble deponent, no collection of flowers out-doors or in, is complete without it.

I like to start the plants in the house for the fun of watching them grow. They are so alert, so strong, so vivid-

ly green, so sturdy and self-reliant, responding generously to good treatment, yet bearing neglect with patience. With a few of these plants well along and plenty more coming, I feel that I have a standby on which to rely to fill gaps in the garden all the season.

With the commonest care, loss by transplanting is rare indeed, but the plant needs a good, deep, rich, mellow soil and to become well established in it before it begins blooming in earnest. There is a freshness about its foliage that has a strong attraction for me, even before it sends up the slender, well-branched, yet whip-like stalks upon which are borne its wealth of blossoms. So I like to tuck a plant of it here, there, and in every corner in my garden. If it grows too slender it is easily encouraged by a little rich soil to more robustness; if too rampant it is easily reduced. Then when the brighter flowers of daytime have gone to sleep, My Lady Nicotine opens her starry eyes and in the dusky gloom of the moon-lit night the garden is transformed to fairyland.

#### VISITS OF THE LADY-BIRD.

As soon as the dew begins to fall (or, if shaded long before the sun has set), the tube-like blossoms expand, and a delicious, all-enveloping fragrance, which is simply enchanting, fills the air. Then it is that "we" and the lady-bird hie us to the garden. It is ours in the dusk and the dew, and while I watch, motionless, in a quiet trance of enjoyment, the lady-bird will visit in regular order and with admirable method every one of the snow-white blossoms. If an unwary movement frightens away my twilight banqueter, he is off like a swift whizzing arrow; but ere you have had time to regret him he is back again, resuming with charming nonchalance the interrupted business of sipping sweets, seemingly specially designed for him, since the nectar is stored so deeply in the tube of the corolla that it can only be reached by the long, slender bill of the humming bird or the prehensile proboscis of the lady-bird. So between these light-winged visitants My Lady Nicotine distributes her sweets; to the hummingbird in the early morning hours, and to the lady bird about sunset or a little later each evening.

DISAPPOINTED BUMBLEBEE.

It is fun to watch a belated bumblebee come buzzing along, a little drowsy and heavy of wing, but determined to have a dip into the honey. He dives down, with softly murmured "yum yums" but cannot reach the prize. Again and again he beats his blundering brains down into the sweet, white chalice, only to be disappointed. It is the cup of Tantalus, ever just out of reach; and when he finally realizes that the honey which is there is not for him, he goes off grumbling and growling,—a very much chagrined old epicure.

#### A WONDROUS CHARM.

And so in many ways the fairy blossoms weave a wondrous charm about the garden, making it attractive in the evening hours, while the whirring wings of the lady-bird make a running accompaniment of low-toned music, sweetly harmonious with the scene, which holds the senses spell-bound for a space.

#### AS A HOUSE PLANT.

Cuttings of nicotiana taken in September make nicely blooming window plants, and often even later little seedlings may be taken up which do as well. Nicotiana affinis as a house plant is eminently a plant for evening decoration. Singly or in conjunction with other plants it is admirable for that purpose. I like to have a stately specimen in a pretty jardinere, with its crown of fifty blossoms or so. Then, when the lamps are lighted and gayer flowers lose much of their charm, nicotiana is easily queen of the collection. The lily-like flowers open suddenly with an air of innocent surprise and the perfume that floats through the house is an added charm.

#### DECORATIONS.

Also I find it convenient to have many of these easily adaptive plants in small pots that may be tucked in anywhere out of sight, but are so easily carried about. Thus grown it lends itself easily to any scheme of decoration. For altar decorations they are fine also; taken to the church the previous day they do not close their blossoms in the "dim, religious light," but mingle quite effectively with lilies, palms and other stately plants. Taken all in all, N. affinis is a treasure, and to me one of the indispensables.

—Dart Fairthorne.

#### Questions Answered.

Will you oblige me with a note on the raising of lemon verbenas from seed. I have never succeeded and have tried very carefully many times. Are they unusually difficult to grow? And what is the best remedy for slugs? Mrs. M.

Lemon Verbenas are so easily propagated from cuttings that the seed is seldom sown. If planted in a box, keeping a moistened paper close over the soil, there should be no difficulty about the seeds germinating.

For slugs, hellebore in water, pyrethrum, airslaked lime, and road dust are all effectual reme-

Is there a White Persian Lilae? I see so many of the purple, but have never yet seen a White, and yet I paid for one last fall which died over winter. Now I am wondering if there is one—and who of our florists have them? F. D. M.

There is a White Persian Lilac, Syringa Persica var. alba. It is offered for sale by Ellwanger & Barry, of this city, also by Henry A. Dreer, Philadelphia, Hiram T. Jones, Elizabeth, N. J., and no doubt many others.

#### Garden Walks and Galks

"Housemates sit around a Radiant Fireplace, Enclosed in a tumultunous privacy of storm."

By F. J. Chase, Ph. D.

#### My Garden in Winter.

In December, 1780, Cowper wrote to Newton: "At this season of the year, and in this gloomy uncomfortable climate, it is no easy matter for the owner of a mind like mine to divert it from sad subjects, and to fix it upon such as may administer to its amusement." But the two walks of the great poet in the morning and noon of a winter's day are delightful, so long as he contrives to let himself be happy in the graciousness of the landscape. We ought to enjoy our gardens as much in the winter as in the summer. In our imaginations, we can take delightful walks over the green velvety lawn, or wander at will around among the flower beds, or sit in the shade and dream on the terraced slope with none of the accompanying annoyances that creep into the hours of summer recreations. In the winter, too, we are getting ready for summer, and in the summer we prepare for winter.

In our Garden Walks and Talks, no one shall deprive us of glories that belong to the round year. Facts and fancies bud and blossom through all the changing seasons. I love those

"Noontide twilights which snow makes With tempest of the blinding flakes."

If the wind veer too much toward the East, we get the heavy snow that gives a true Alpine slope to the boughs of the evergreens, and traces a skeleton of the elms in white. "What a cunning silversmith is Frost!" says Lowell. "The rarest workmanship of Delhi or Genoa copies him but clumsily, as if the fingers of all other artists were thumbs. Fernwork and lacework and filagree in endless variety, and under it all the water tinkles like a distant guitar, or drums like a tambourine, or gurgles like the Tokay of an anchorite's dream. Beyond doubt there is a fairy procession marching along those frail arcades and translucent corridors." The posts and boards, rails and pickets, have poems traced on them by this great artist. He covers the window-pane with Alpine etchings, as if in memory of that embowered spot where I sat in the cool of the day. Hail then,

"O Winter, ruler of the inverted year!"

### Reproduction of Plants.

Increase by seed is the commonest mode of reproduction. Seeds are merely leaves preserved in peculiar cerements till the return of another season. Wherever there is a healthy leaf, there is no difficulty in rearing an independent plant, since the leaf is the primary organism from which all other parts take their form and development. The seeds of a numerous class of vegetables are composed of two leaves or lobes, as in the case of the bean or apple. To produce a fertile seed, the pollen or dusty granules which tip the stigmas must be conveyed to the pistil, and through the pistil to the embryo in the ovary. These precious granules, so liable to be swept away by breeze or shower, are protected by the sheltering calyx and corolla, which turn their backs to the wind, or droop to ward off the rain. Should the pollen be scattered by accident, the pistil is covered with a fine mucilage which guards

it against every foe. Some plants have the stamens and pistils in the same flower. In others the stigmas are in one flower and the pistils in another; while in some the male and female flowers are produced on separate stems, yet in all, the means of fertilization are met. If the male and female flowers are near, they are brought in contact by the waving of a branch, or if distant the breeze, or the wandering bee are the agents by which the pollen is carried.

When properly matured, a seed must be provided, first, with a means of dispersion and preservation, and second, with a sufficiency of internal nourishment for the embryo plant, till its roots have struck into the soil and its leaves have unfolded into the atmosphere. To provide against excessive heat or cold, drought or moisture, nature has furnished the seeds of plants with perfect coverings. The coco is incased in a hard shell that defies atmospheric changes; the chestnut has a leathery envelope; the rose a flesh hip, packed with down; the pea and bean, a pod of parchment. Seeds that are apparently naked have an exterior tissue so condensed that they look as though they had come from the hand of a japanner. Thus the protection against cold, drought, moisture, and other destructive agencies, is so complete, that seeds which have been buried for centuries, have, on being brought to the surface sprung up into healthy plants. Wheat has been grown from grain, found in the case of an Egyptian mummy three thousand years old.

Equally curious, also, is the means for their dispersion over the surface of the earth. What could be better adapted for floating from island to island than the waterproof woody shell of the cocoanut. What is more easily caught up by the slightest breath of air than the seeds of the thistle or dandelion with their little parachutes of down? What is more aptly fitted for attachment to the coats of wandering animals than the hooked heads of the teasel and burdock? Many spores of flowerless vegetation float in the air unseen. The dried mushroom or puff-ball when struck by the foot of the pedestrian disperses thousands of its kind around. The little brown specks on the leaf of the fern, the snuff-like powder of the puff-ball, or the dust arising from the mould of a decayed cheese are alike the germs of future plants, When we consider how minute each one is, how liable to be carried by the winds, by water, or the covering of animals, we shall cease to wonder that there is not a spot on the surface of the earth, organic or inorganic, that is not clothed with Nature's garment of usefulness or beauty.

#### The Moving Finger of Time.

Much of our pride and boasting of material improvement, scientific achievement and intellectual advancement, does not imply that we have correspondingly increased in wisdom and goodness. The "strenuous life" of this age is its characteristic feature. Gladstone questioned whether the intellectual strength of man has increased during the past three hundred years,—whether we, after all, are only more expert in the use of materials. If man is smarter is he any wiser, or better?

The civilization of today is partly a heritage, and partly an achievement. It is more an occasion for gratitude than boasting. Nature and history teach this. The careful student of nature and events soon becomes acquainted with that fact. The resources of the world were hidden

away in the star mist out of which millions of years ago our solar system was born. They were being prepared in the primal ooze on the far off shores of primeval seas. Then, ancient Egypt and India, Greece and Rome, had a hand in it. Great and good men in the scientific and philosophical realms, out of great tribulation, have brought their contributions, enabling the modern man to see more clearly into the mystery of being and to get his bearings more easily. The inventors of the alphabet, they who first thought of money and devised our system of credit and exchange, facilitated the advance of man. The scientists who first brought the lightning from the clouds, helped their successors to send it under the seas and across continents and make it the servant of man. Man must know nature before he can become a master. Thus the scientists and inventors, who have lived near to "nature's heart," and studied her laws, have sent the steam through the tunneled mountains and brought distant places near. All the workers, therefore, known and unknown,-those who have written the books and sung the songs, and composed the music, have had a hand in the things of to-day.

It is a wonderful process by which old rags and refuse, or the fibres of trees are wrought into a white sheet of paper upon which human passion may trace its love or hatred. But what is that compared with the long process of thousands of years that turned human ignorance and passion into intelligence and brotherly love? Growth means change, and change means the decay of the old to make way for the new. And so in the process of development, the pathway of progress has been made slippery with human blood, and man has pushed forward, impelled by unseen power within which he has only partially understood.

Great men grow mighty, tower aloft, and cast their shadow of protection across the wide realms of art, literature, science, and religion of their time. But in a little while others are in their places and a tablet or monument endeavors to keep an ungrateful world from forgetting them. Though men forget, and posterity is ungrateful, and the mighty dead of the past live today in the realm of ideas, and are thus pushing the world forward. The Persian poet wisely says:

"The moving finger writeson; and having writ, Moves on; nor all your pity nor wit Shall lure it back to cancel half a line Nor all your tears wash out a word of it."

That is the pathos that hang its mist of rain-bowcolored tears over all the landscape of the irrecoverable past. Time turns over the pages in the book of life and balances all accounts with remorseless regularity and never with any apologies. Man falls in line and keeps step with the great world-movements, or drops out and is trodden under foot. Schools of thought, institutions. governments, religions,—bud, unfold their leaves, have their being and pass away. Each seed, plant, tree, animal, bird, man, institution, has its one opportunity. Then others come upon the stage. Death only unclogs the wheels of the world's chariot and under the impulse of young hands, keeps it moving. The rough outside husk ever has in its heart the delicate petals that await their opportunity to blossom into a finer flower than the old time ever knew.

> "Upward, or stumbling on the steps of Time, The wise man's only care is how to climb."

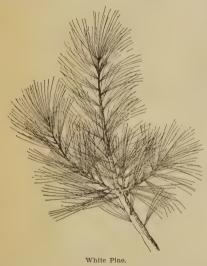
## Nature Study

#### Evergreens.

In January, when Nature is giving the trees and plants and even some animals their long rest and sleep, the outside world does not look as charming as in summer. We seek in vain for the bright wild flowers, the dainty ferns. But all vegetation is not asleep, and we hail with gladness the many lovely evergreens. Some grow in every state, and at holiday time the markets are full of a great many varieties which have been sent to us from all over our own country and even from way across the waters.

Many children have seen the crooked apple tree, and all are familiar with its fruit. Show them the picture of a pine branch explaining that the needles are its leaves and that the cone is the fruit bearing the seeds.

The most common pines are White, Red, and Pitch Pine. The cones of the White Pine are



much longer than the others, so you can easily determine the variety. The bark of the White Pine is a greenish red and rather smooth. The long green leaves are grouped in five and are in tufts at the ends of the branches. The new cones are only two or three inches long. They are green at first, but turn brown as they grow older and larger the next year.

In the middle of the end of each scale of a pine cone the seed may be plainly seen. The White Pine wood is soft. It is used for building purposes and for the masts of ships. If you have the other varieties of pine, you will notice that the Pitch Pine leaves grow in threes, and on the Red Pine they grow in twos. The wood of the Pitch Pine is quite hard and good for flooring, furniture, etc. Its branches are fragrant from the resin which can be seen exuding. Kindling wood is a very common and useful form of this pitch pine. It grows profusely even in sandy soil, in which other trees will not thrive. Turpentine, oil, tar and resin are obtained from pine wood.

Why are these trees called Evergreens? It is apparent, because they are always green, while

other trees shed their leaves in autumn. Then do evergreens always keep their leaves? Are they the same leaves year after year? Any child who has been in the woods recalls having walked over great patches of ground covered with pine needles. So the leaves do fall and in examining a tree closely we can see that the tips of the branches bear the new leaves and that each whorl of leaves further from the tip are the thick older leaves, and often the parts of the branch where it joins the trunk are quite bare, showing that these older needles or barks are those which have fallen off.

The Cedars are distinguished by their flattened leaves. This can be more easily shown than described. Perhaps some children have heard of the "Cedars of Lebanon" and know of various references to them in the Bible. Cedars grow to an immense height and thickness, and in most the branches extend horizontally. They have a delicious aromatic odor, familiar to all. The wood



is quite valuable and expensive. Cedar chests are moth proof and will be a familiar example to some.

The Arbor Vitæ resembles the cedar and is often mistaken for it. What is known as the Christmas tree is usually a Balsam Fir. It is somewhat like the Spruce Tree, but its leaves are blunt on the end and they are arranged only on two sides of the branch, thus presenting a flat appearance, instead of being cylindrical, as in the Spruce. The sweet odor of the Balsam Fir makes it very popular for what are sometimes incorrectly called "Pine Pillows."

The large beautiful cones make it specially attractive for the Chistmas tree. The wood is of no



special value as is the Cedar and Pine. Spruce

gum and spruce beer, which are used in some states are obtained from the spruce tree.

Next comes the Holly with its dark green prickly leaves and its bright red berries. These berries are, of course, the ripened fruit and contain the



seeds. Early in the summer the trees were covered with little white blossoms which have ripened into these gay berries.

The English Mistletoe is largely imported. There are many allusions to it in literature. It is not a tree and it grows quite differently from any of the trees we have mentioned. It is a parasite; that is, it grows on another plant and lives by feeding on its juices. It was supposed by the old priests to heal all wounds and to keep off danger. In modern times, a kiss is the penalty for walking beneath it.



Try to have the children become familiar with, and able to distinguish the branches and cones of pine, spruce, balsam fir. larch, mistletoe, holly, hemlock, cedar and arbor vitæ. After you have shown all the specimens, and the children have learned about them, supplement the work with some poems-"Hemlock Tree" (Longfellow), "Pine Needles," "Under the Holly Boughs." "Hiawatha's Sailing" would bring in some facts of the tree also. Tell the story of the Discontented Pine Tree that wished for so many other kinds of leaves and finally found that her own were the best suited for her pur-

pose. The whole series of lessons may be closed with

PINE NEEDLES.

If Mother Nature patches the leaves of trees and vines, I'm sure she does her darning with the needles of the pines; They are so long and slender and somewhere in full view She has her thread of cobweb and a thimble made of dew.

-Lilian M. Cherry in Normal Instructor.

Nothing will interest children more than these Nature Study articles and nothing will help more to lead them to a true, pure life. We cannot comprehend how a true student of nature can be bad. Surely the wonderful things of nature lead one to think of the great Maker of all these wonderful things. These articles will appear regularly. Send your subscription and as many others as possible this month.

## Household Helps

#### To Mothers.

Speak gently to the children, nor wound the tender heart, The time may not be distant when you and they must part; So just forget the worries and the battles you've to fight, And in the quiet evening kiss them a warm "good night."

They, too are swiftly nearing the battle-field of life; And lest they should be worsted in the fight with sin and strife, Oh, gird them with the armor of a mother's perfect love— A shining, pure, example of faith in God above.

The trials that await them in the far-off after years, The happy childish laughter may melt to bitter tears, The bonnie curls that cluster around your darling's brow, The ruthless hand of sorrow may render white as snow.

Ah! then the recollection of a mother's tender care

May smooth life's rugged pathway—may save from many a

And in the hush of even, as in the days of yore, In fond imagination they'll feel your kiss once more.

'Twill cool the burning forehead, 'twill raise their thoughts to God.

When the loving lips that gave it are cold beneath the sod;
The hardest heart will soften—the tear-dimmed eyes grow
bright.

At childhood's happy memories, and a mother's sweet "good night."

Dissolve a little salt in the alcohol that is to be used for sponging clothing, particularly where there are greasy spots.

Spots on clothing that have been caused by the colors being taken out by acids may be obliterated often by first applying ammonia and after it chloroform.

When clothing has acquired a close, unpleasant odor from being packed away where the air cannot reach it, a few pieces of charcoal laid among the folds will soon remove the odor.

After each meal a house should be aired, if but for five minutes. One remaining in the house does not notice the close heavy air, but a guest coming in will be unpleasantly impressed as he enters the door.

One of the best and quickest ways of cleaning the isinglass in a stove is with vinegar and water. Dip a soft cloth in the vinegar and water and quickly rub the windows over, going well into the corners. The windows will remain clean for a long time.

To make one's own extract of vanilla secure five Tonquin beans and one vanilla bean, clip them and put them into a bottle with ten ounces of alcohol, six ounces of water and three of sugar. Let the mixture remain from six to eight weeks, shaking it frequently; then strain and it is ready for use.

For fruit stains on white stuffs rub on yellow soap; then wet powdered starch to the consistency of thick cream; cover the place and hang for several days in the sun. A fresh fruit stain will yield always to boiling water poured through it. For mildew and iron rust, wet with tartaric acid in strong solution and hang in the sun.

An old housewife says that codfish skins can be used as a good substitute for egg in settling coffee. To prepare it for use scrape the outside of the skin and pick off the fish flesh from the other side. Then rinse the skin in cold water, cut it into pieces one inch and a half, square and dry them. One piece of this size is sufficient to settle coffee enough for six persons.

Oak furniture is better for being rubbed with linseed oil in which some alkanet root has been steeped, and then brushed with a brush stiff enough to get into every crevice of the carving. Ordinarily an application of beeswax and polishing cloths is sufficient, but the oil and the root preserve the wood and keep the furniture in excellent color and appearance. The time-honored beeswax and turpentine, used by our grandmothers for polishing furniture, is still as good a polisher as can be found.

Housekeepers desirous of making their own baking powder can do so with very little trouble. The following formula is one that has been used for many years: Weigh six ounces of flour and thoroughly dry it, without browning it, in the oven. Procure six ounces of the best soda and thirteen and one-half ounces of cream of tartar. Add them to the dried flour and rub together half a dozen times through a sieve, then put them in air-tight jars or in tin cans and keep in a dark closet, using the powder from a small jar so that it will retain its strength.

#### Things Worth Knowing.

The tone of a piano improves when the instrument is moved from the wall.

Boots that have been hardened by water can be made soft and pliable by rubbing with kerosene oil

Throw a quantity of salt in the stove if the chimney is on fire and there is danger from sparks; if not let it burn.

A cement made by adding a teaspoonful of glycerine to a gill of glue is a great convenience in the kitchen and is especially good for fastening leather, paper or wood to metal.

A new, soft paint brush is a good thing to dust carved furniture with as the bristles will penetrate the crevices.

A good broom holder may be made by putting two large screws—nails will answer—into the walls about two inches apart. Drop the broom between them, handle downward.

#### THE DAUGHTER OF RUBENS.

(Continued from page 5)

One would think, to have seen him bending so constantly over his task, that his very life depended upon his success or failure. At the end or five days Andrea had the pleasure of seeing his work completed; and it was with no slight degree of satisfaction that he beheld the triumph of genius over so many obstacles. Attaching no name to his work of art, Andrea had the chiseled wreath boxed up and sent to the hotel of Rubens.

The first day of the ensuing month was the one appointed for making known the name of the successful candidate. At an early hour in the morning the hall in the hotel of the artist Rubens was densely filled with people, many of whom were led thither by curiosity, for such an important matter afforded to those not interested, at least, no slight degree of food for gossip. Andrea, too, was there; but it seemed as though he shrank from public gaze and contact, for he had chosen a seat in the extreme corner of the hall. Few. if any, recognized him, for during his brief stay in Antwerp, Andrea had devoted himself so exclusively to his studies that he had made but a slight acquaintance. He had not even seen the daughter of his master, although he now remembered that the latter had spoken of the striking resemblance between his daughter and that of the miniature he possessed; but that was years ago, and now that Clara had grown to be a woman, even that faint resemblance must certainly have faded away.

Busy with such thoughts as these, Andrea remained silent and motionless for some moments, until the whisper of "She comes" ran through the crowd, and falling upon the youthful artist recalled him to a consciousness about him. Looking in the direction of the door, it swung slowly open, and Clara Rubens entered, attired in a robe of snowy white, leaning upon the arm of her father. Andrea cast one look upon the almost angelic being before him, and murmuring a few incoherent words sank back into his seat, and drawing the miniature from his breast sat wildly gazing upon it.

Rubens stated that out of the many hundred who had enrolled their names as competitors for the prize, but some six or eight had succeeded in accomplishing the designed work of art. Each of the wreaths was then submitted in turn to the view of the assembly. All eyes rested upon Rubens as he said:—

"The single wreath upon which my choice has fallen, as being the great masterpiece, has, unfortunately no name affixed to it."

The eyes of the crowd were now diverted from Rubens to one another, each one seeking, if possible, to discover the fortunate victor. But the deep scrutiny reached not the little obscured corner in which Andrea sat, although his trembling frame and heaving breast were guilty tokens of his impending fate. At last Rubens said in a very loud voice:—

"If the author of this elaborate piece of work-manship is present, I conjure him at once to make himself known, for upon him has my choice fallen."

Slowly Andrea came forward, bewildered by the decision in his favor. It was as much a surprise to Rubens as it was to Andrea to know that his student of former days was the author of that magnificent piece of work. A silent joy stole into his heart as he realized that his daughter's future was to be entrusted to one so worthy of the great prize he was about to bestow. And now Clara Rubens came softly to her father's side; her face wore an anxious look but as she beheld Andrea her troubled countenance lit up with joy. As she fully realized that he was the one who rescued her from the hands of the ruffian on that summer night, she sprang forward and clasping his hands in hers cried, "My saviour! You who have rescued me from dishonor and even death, I will do all I can to make you happy."

It seemed to Andrea that he was still gazing upon the miniature he had carried so long and cherished so fondly; but no! the beautiful girl into whose face he looked, breathed and spoke to him. Her soft hands which rested in his were warm and pulsating with life. Yes, it was her face that he beheld, herself to be his for life. He was speechless with joy. He led his prize silently away, followed by the envious and disappointed glances of the other contestants. Rubens followed them from the hall and pronounced his blessing upon them as they departed. Honor has crowned the efforts of the artist since that happy day, but the most cherished of all his possessions are the wreath of iron which brought him his treasure and the miniature of his lovely wife, Clara Rubens del Sarto.

In our next issue we will publish the first installment of a strong story, (Concluded March) by Clifford Scollard.

## KITCHEN and DINING ROOM

#### Choice Cakes.

DELICATE CAKE.

One cupful of butter. Three cupfuls of flour. Two cupfuls of sugar. Whites of six eggs. Two-thirds cupful of sweet milk. One teaspoonful of soda. Lemon extract.

#### WHITE CAKE.

Four cupfuls of white sugar. One and one-half cupfuls of butter, One and one-half cupfuls of sour milk. Whites of fourteen eggs. Nearly seven cupfuls of flour

Heaping tablespoon of soda.

Beat the whites of the eggs to a stiff froth and add cream, butter, and sugar; mix ingredients quickly, but thoroughly. Bake in one loaf, and then cover with the following icing:

Two cupfuls of white sugar. Two-thirds cupful of water. Butter size of a hickory nut.

One teaspoonful of vanilla.

Boil this for five minutes without stirring; then remove from the fire and stir gently until it becomes creamy, when it should be spread thickly over the cake with a broad knife.

#### Helpful Hints.

VALUE OF GOOD BACON.

Good bacon has a peculiarly rich and appetizing flavor, and when eaten with a due proportion of fresh vegetables is one of the most wholesome and digestible of foods. When bacon is found to be very salty it should be soaked in cold water before cooking.

#### WHEN CHICKEN IS GOOD.

The following is a delicious way to cook chickens: Dress your chickens, wash and let them stand in water half an hour to make them white. Open them at the back, put into a baking pan, sprinkle salt and pepper over them and put a lump of butter here and there. Then cover tightly with another pan the same size and bake one hour; baste often with butter.

#### BAKING ROLLS AND BISCUITS.

Rolls and biscuits should bake quickly. To make them a nice color rub them over with warm water just before putting them into the oven. To glaze them brush lightly with milk and sugar. Baking power and soda biscuit should be made as rapidly as possible, laid into hot pans and put into a quick oven.

Coffee creams are very delicious and are made as follows: Flavor a pint of milk with a gill of strong coffee. Turn it into a rich custard with six eggs, strain it through a hair sieve, put them into small earthenware or china cases, and steam gently till they set. When cold, turn them out and serve with pure cream as a sauce, or with whipped cream sweetened and flavored with vanilla.

#### Milk Gravy.

There are reasons why steak cannot always be broiled, and for those people who seldom have steak cooked in that way, here is a nice way of serving it.

Fry it as usual and then pour half a cup of milk into the spider and thicken with flour. If the steak has been fried in butter, the brown butter will give it a delicious flavor.

Many put the steak into a very hot frying-pan and brown it as quickly as possible, and others put it into a pan in which is a small piece of butter. If the latter, it must be watched closely, and the meat must be moved frequently and turned often to keep the butter from getting too brown, and also to make as much of it adhere to the meat as possible.

My mother always fried salt pork brown and crisp, and then poured milk into the spider to make a milk gravy.

Always fry veal, in butter and a milk gravy for that is equally good, though it must be salted

#### Washing Windows in Winter.

There is a right and wrong way to wash winwindows. In winter it is often difficult to wash windows as often as they require it, as the work cannot be done in freezing weather, nor when the sun is shining upon them. At such times dust them well, if there is dust upon them, and leave them until a warm day and an hour when the sun is not shining on them. Use a large painter's brush to brush the dust off the ledges of the window, and wipe it off the windows with a dry linen cloth. Do not use soap in washing windows, but rub them over on the inside with a little whiting moistened with alcohol and water in about equal parts. Polish off the whiting, using a chamois-skin or an old newspaper which has been softened by the hands, to do so. Take care not to allow the powder to scatter around the room as it will, if it is not gathered up in the paper or chamois-skin while it is being rubbed off. Regular glaziers always polish window glass with whiting. Do not use strong ammonia in washing windows, or it will leave a mist on the glass which will be difficult to take off.

#### Cut Your Bread Thin.

Many physicians, according to a lecture on dietetics, are ordering thin bread and butter for delicate patients, especially those suffering from dyspepsia, consumption and anæmia, or any who need to take on flesh. This thin bread and butter insensibly induces persons to eat much more butter than they have any idea of. It is extraordinary, says the lecturer, how short a way a pat of fresh butter will go if spread on a number of thin slices of bread. This is one advantage, and a great one, in the feeding of invalids, for they are thereby provided with an excellent form of the fat which is so essential for their nutrition, in a way that lures them to take it without rebellion. But the thin bread and butter has another advantage equally great—it is very digestible and easily assimilated. Fresh butter made from cream is very much more digestible when spread upon thin slices of bread than the same amount of cream eaten as cream.

#### Paste These Up in the Kitchen.

Rinse dishes in hot water. Drain on rack.

Screw sink-strainer down and never remove it. Use hot water, good soap, a clean dish cloth

and towels. Use little soap and never leave it in the dishpan to soak.

Crumbs and refuse matter must not collect in sink, as they will clog the waste-pipe.

Air closets under sink daily. Clean thoroughly once a week. Hang only dry cleaning cloths under the sink.

After washing dinner dishes flush sink and pipe with hot solution of washing soda. Rinse well. Rub faucets.

Wash kitchen utensils inside and out. Rinse, wipe and then dry by moderate heat. After each meal wash dish cloth, dish towels, dish-pans, rack and sink.

Wash cleanest dishes first. Put the glasses and china into dishpan sideways, one at a time, and roll quickly in the water. This equalizes the heat, preventing breakage.

Before washing rinse milk pitchers, cups, coffee and chocolate pots in cold water. Knives, forks, and spoons in hot water. Scrape plates well. Soak kitchen utensils in cold water.

#### Rules for the Napkin.

There is a good deal of uncertainty as to whether it is or is not the thing to fold a napkin after a formal meal. If one is staying in the house and knows that napkin rings are in use, it seems a reflection upon that custom to fling the napkin down in an untidy heap. An elegantly appointed table deserves better treatment, even at the end of the meal, than those dishevelled piles of drapery, too. Therefore it always seems fittest to simply half fold the napkin, and not attract attention to it either by one obtrusive habit or the other.

Appetizing sandwiches for lunches or picnics are called mock crab. Cream two tablespoonfuls of butter, add one-quarter of a cup of grated cheese, one-quarter of a teaspoonful each of salt, mustard and paprika—a sweet red pepper, not strong as cayenne, but which adds to the appearance of mixture and gives it a pinkish tint, from which it takes its name. Dissolve an eighth of a spoonful of anchovy paste in a teaspoonful of vinegar and add to the rest. This is delicious spread on thin slices of bread.

One or two good hints in this department will be worth the price of subscription to you. We shall aim to make this page truly helpful to the housekeeper. When you have read this issue show it to your neighbors and get them to subscribe. Use the coupons on page seventeen. You can easily earn your own subscription

In checking up our list we find that quite a number have not received their magazine the past. five months, and if this paragraph is marked you will know that you are among this number. are unable to supply back numbers but to make the matter entirely satisfactory we will credit those who failed to get the paper, twice as many months as were missed. We believe we now have the records correct so it will not be necessary to write us in regard to the matter. See our liberal offer on page seventeen.

## Fruit Notes

#### Questions and Answers.

BY PROF. H. E. VAN DEMAN.

Prof. Van Deman's questions and answers in the December Fruit Grower are so practical for small fruit growers that we reprint them for the benefit of our readers

- (1) Which is the best and hardiest apricot for this section in size and quality? I have Early Golden and it does well, but the fruit is not as large as I would like it. Is the Harris apricot the
- (2) Can Japanese plum trees be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture without it causing the leaves to drop?
- (3) Can whale oil be used to good advantage with Bordeaux mixture?-W. H. Nott, 77 Woodland street, Hartford, Bristol Co., Conn.
- Reply: (1) Eureka and Harris are both larger apricots than Early Golden and fully as hardy. The Harris is generally considered one of the very best varieties to grow where the winters are a little trying on the apricot.
- (2) If there is plenty of lime in Bordeaux mixture there will no injury result from its use on the Japanese plums while in foliage.
- (3) It is necessary to apply whale oil (fish oil it really is) in the form of a soap to prevent it from injuring foliage, and this must be diluted in water, 2 1-2 pounds to the gallon, and applied quite hot, in order to cause it to be thin enough to spray. It is not suitable for using with Bordeaux mixture.

Please inform me about the Rockwood and Nectar (Black Delaware) grape. Are they hardy? Are they productive? Also, will Campbell's Early stand 20 degrees below zero?—Respectfully, A. Hurlburt.

Reply: Rockwood is a seedling of Concord originated by Euphaim Bull, of Concord, Mass., the originator of the Concord. He thought it might prove an improvement over the old variety, but it is almost the same in size, color and quality, but is a week or more earlier. It is about the same as Concord in point of hardiness.

Nectar is a cross between Concord and Delaware, grown by A. J. Caywood, of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., in 1883. The vine is hardy and healthy and generally productive, although not so in all cases. The fruit ripens with Delaware and the cluster and berries are a little larger than those of that variety. The color is jet black and the quality excellent. There is little propensity to disease in either léaf or fruit, and all in all the Nectar is a grape worthy of being planted. Professor H. E. Van Deman:

You stated in one number of the Fruit Grower that in removing limbs from pear trees affected with blight, the saw or knife should be disinfected after each cut. Will you please tell me what disinfectant to use, and how? I have an orchard badly affected by blight.

Yours sincerely,

S. M. FARNUM.

Reply: Carbolic acid is the best germ destroyer to use on saws, knives or other instruments used in cutting back trees affected with pear blight.

A rag saturated with it in diluted form can be used to wipe off tools after each cut. Or the top of the stump or wound can be wiped over with the same, instead of treating the instruments.

What winter mulch for strawberries can be recommended as free from weed and grass seeds?

Reply: Good clean rye, wheat or oat straw is about the cheapest and most handy material to be had for mulching strawberries. Forest leaves are excellent. Pine leaves are even better than those of deciduous trees, because they are so fine as to allow the young leaves to come up between them in the spring without any difficulty, and they contain no harmful weed seeds. The latter is true of marsh hay, which is also very good where it may be obtained cheaply. The mulch should not be heavy over the plants unless it is taken off in part very promptly in the Spring, in time for the first growth to come through.

What is your opinion of York Imperial apple for Eastern and Middle states?

Reply: For commercial purposes or home use in the Middle states, there is no more generally approved variety of apple than York Imperial. It is a running mate with Ben Davis, but is far better in quality. In the region from New York northward and eastward it is an experiment as vet. Whether or not it will prove equal, superior or inferior to Baldwin, where that variety has long been the leading one, we do not know. It is worthy of trial there.

Are more fruits being eaten each succeeding year in this country?

Reply: There is no doubt that fruits are getting more and more popular as food all over the country. Our people are finding out that they are good, wholesome and cheap food. The old idea was that fruits were a luxury. As an evidence of this we should note the fact that the price of fruit is now higher than in the days of pioneer life in the early settlement of the country. This is true in almost every section. People are also more able to buy now than then.

### Renewing Old Peach Trees.

Peach trees grow rapidly and unless the new wood on the end of the branches is cut back each season, the tree becomes too widespreading, with too much bearing wood. The result is that the untrimmed tree bears twice as much fruit as it can fully develop and the fruit is borne on the branches so far away from the base of support as to cause the branches to break down, even when not overloaded. The best method of training peach trees is to cut back each year one-half or more of the last season's growth, but since this is not done by many people, it is often necessary to resort to heroic measures.

In order to make a test, two or three years ago, I allowed peach trees to grow in my garden without heading back annually as is the custom with many growers. These trees were then about five years old. I cut off the tops of these peach trees one winter, removing nearly all of the top, leaving stubs, or branches, four to six feet in length, there being some twigs or shoots on all of these stubs or branches left. My idea was to get a new growth of wood upon these peach trees, or in other words, to allow them to form a new top less widespreading, and in this way, to renew the vigor of the trees and to make the branches self-

This year these trees have been heavily laden with large and beautiful specimens of peaches, the foliage of the trees is remarkably healthy and vigorous, and of a dark green color. The experiment has been successful. The life and vigor of these trees have been renewed, and they will undoubtedly continue to bear much longer than they would had they not been cut back, but it is possible that I have lost one season's fruit from these trees by cutting the tops back so severely.-Ed. Green's Fruit Grower.

#### A Favorite Gooseberry.

The gooseberries derived from native American species are unexcelled in flavor, quality and productiveness, neither have they the tough thick skin common to the European sorts. They are inferior to the European varieties only in size. The best of these is undoubtedly the Downing, which bears pale green, roundish-oval fruit covered with thin whitish bloom. Skin thin and smooth. Flesh soft, juicy, sweet; ranking among the best in flavor whether compared with American or European sorts.

The bush is upright, vigorous, rarely troubled with mildew and very productive. This variety is highly esteemed for home and market use, both in this country and in some parts of Europe, where it comes in competition with the handsomely colored fruits of largest size produced by European varieties.—S. A. Beach in American Agriculturist.

This department should be worth the price of our subscription to any one who has a few fruit It will be a regular feature of this maga-Send in your subscription at once, and try to get three of your neighbors to subscribe when we will advance your subscription one year.



This is specially imported from France and usually sells for \$1.00 or more. As regards power and convenient handling, good judges pronounce it the best ever introduced for popular use. It has a fine polished brass case, and powerful double lenses, magnifying 500 times. An insect holder accompanies each Microscope. Insects, flowers, seeds, water and all other small objects may be examined with this Microscope, and the result will amuse, astonish and instruct you. It is not a cheap and worthless Microscope, such as many that are sold, but a real scientific instrument, guaranteed as represented and to give perfect satisation. The use of a good Microscope not only furnishes one of the most justructive and fascinating of all employments, but is also of great practical use in every household. It tells you whether seeds will germinate, detects adulteration in food and is useful in a thousand ways. Every person should have one. Special reduced price 40 cents each postpaid, 3 for \$1.00 postpaid.

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VICK PUBLISHING COMPANY, Triangle Building. Rochester, N. Y.

### OUR POULTRY PAGE

J. W. Burgess.

We invite brief, practical suggestions for this department, from our poultry-loving readers.

#### Boiled Down for Busy People.

Soft-shelled eggs indicate a scarcity of lime.

The duck has no crop, as the hen. Did you know it?

Ill-shaped eggs is an unfailing sign that the hen is too fat.

If you have time it will pay you to heat the corn in the oven before feeding the fowls.

If you were successful in raising pullets last summer, they should be shelling out liberally now.

One good cold now will wind up a hen's usefulness as an egg producer for the balance of the winter.

The spell of laying with the pullet is not so long as that of the old hen, but her rests between times are much shorter.

Don't keep too many fowls together. They will do better and give you more eggs, with a dozen in in a pen, than with more than that.

Of course the presence of a cock in a yard full of hens is not essential to egg-laying, but a flock of fowls looks incomplete without one.

If possible the young fowls and old ones should be kept separate. They require a different diet, and that is impossible when they are together.

Don't expect the best results in eggs unless the fowls have a plentiful supply of lime in some form. Ground oyster shells are lime and gravel combined.

Use the same energy and fore-thought, and plan as carefully in your poultry venture as you do in your regular business, and the percentage of profit will be as large.

Don't feed ducks too much hard food. A diet of one-half corn meal, and smaller proportions of bran, cooked potatoes, and a little grit, stirred into a crumbly state and fed night and morning will make them thrive.

Some men try to simplify their labor by filling a trough with corn, or wheat, and allowing the fowls to help themselves at will. It is a waste of food, and a regular farce in the matter of egg production, for a week or two of this sort of treatment will generally make the hens so fat they can't lay.

Don't winter a lot of cockerels and cull pullets. Fatten and sell them, before they "eat their heads off." If you haven't a good, well-bred cockerel, get one at once. They will be higher in price in the spring. Keep the hens busy. Eggs are scarce and high. Cut clover hay for the fowls. They will make a meal of it any time.

Buckwheat is excellent egg producing food for winter use, though it is too heating for a warm weather ration. The fowls should be allowed to run out on sunny days, though care should be taken to have the roosting place tight and warm for them to run into when the sun goes down, so they won't get chilled. Too close housing makes them susceptible to cold, but the danger of falling into this error is not very great, as the majority of fowls get more cold and less warmth in winter than is good for them.

Fresh water and plenty of it goes a long way toward scoring a success with hens. Dust won't hurt the fowls. You may not be able to see across the scratching pen for the dust, but it won't worry them, in the least. It shows that the place is not damp. Dampness and success can't go together in poultry raising.

Instead of making fun of the "wimmen" for their interest in poultry, if the average farmer would expend a little money, a little labor, and a little energy in building proper and up-to-date accommodations for the fowls, he would make the labor of the "wimmen" much lighter, and incidentally make more money out of the hens than he does out of his cows.

The bugs, worms, grasshoppers, and scraps that come in their way while foraging in warm weather, are not available now; hence the fowls must have something to take the place of them. Chop up some raw meat occasionally, or give them ground green bone, and you will see an improved condition at once, and will soon see the interest on your investment in an increase of eggs.

Of course you have a scratching-pen. If not, then build one at once. If you can't conveniently find a spot adjoining your roosting place, on which to erect a scratching-pen, then build it at a little distance away, and connect it with a runway, built of boards a foot wide. The fowls will find their way through it, depend upon that, and they will enjoy it none the less because of the thought that they are going where they have no business.

The question of water is generally a serious one in winter, as it freezes so quickly. The neatest method, unless you have a running stream or spring that you can cover, is to have a pail for the purpose, and give them a good drink of warm water twice a day, emptying the pail each time, after they have finished. It is some trouble to do this, but if you don't want to be troubled, keep out of the poultry business, for it is founded upon trouble, and each stone in its foundation is cemented in trouble. Nobody ever made a success of poultry without a lot of trouble.

#### THEY WOULDN'T LAY.

So your hens are not laying well just now. Well that is really annoying, but as misery loves company, it should be a wonderful source of comfort to you to know that nobody's else hens are laying well either. During the moulting period, of course you did not expect many eggs, and when they were nearly through moulting, you fondly hoped they would soon begin. But there again you were disappointed, for the supply of eggs was still limited.

In November, you thought there would be a long stretch of Indian summer that would certainly warm them up to the laying point, but, instead there was a succession of storms, rain and slush, that was enough to discourage the most energetic hen in the world, and so your hens might properly be excused for not tuning up to the laying point.

Next came a few warm days in early December, during which the combs grew red, and the hens began to sing, and an occasional egg gave promise of the abundant yield soon to follow. But alas, for human expectations. Along came a frigid wave that froze the ground, the streams, the water-tanks, and pails, and troughs, and also the combs of your fowls if you did not keep them indoors. The red in the combs faded out; the

fowls grew dumpy and morose, and all thought of laying eggs was frozen out of them, and the temperature of your hopes and expectations descended in the same proportion. The point of egg-laying seemed as far away as ever, and for a time you felt like decapitating the entire flock. The zero weather passed away, for a few days, and again the combs began to redden, and the fowls to sing, and you once more caught sight of any occasional egg. Thus the work has gone on, week after week, and you are well-nigh discouraged, and ready to agree with the misguided croaker who insists that keeping hens does not pay.

What do all these vicissitudes and disappointments teach? Simply that you allowed the winter to catch you unprepared. Like many a farmer, with his potatoes, and corn husking, and many a gardener with his cabbage, beets, and turnips, you assumed that the warm, dry weather was to stay with us all winter, and therefore it was useless to be in a hurry about preparing for cold weather. Suppose that while the warm, pleasant weather of October was inviting you to out-door work, you had gone at it, and repaired the roof and siding of your hen roost, and cleaned out the scratching pen, (or built one if you had none); and carried enough dry leaves therein to make a litter a foot deep, all over the floor; hauled in a wheelbarrow load of road dust, or finely sifted coal ashes, and thrown among the leaves, and made the windows and doors all tight and nice, so that when the cold snap overtook you suddenly you would have been prepared for it. Instead of the storm catching your fowls roosting all over the premises, from the plow handle to the top of the apple tree, they would have been safely housed in a warm, dry house, where the cold, biting blast and chilling storm could not reach them. Instead of the red fading out of the combs, and fowls receiving a set-back from which they will not recover until warm weather thaws them out. they would have gone right on singing, and working, and by this time you would be reaping a harvest of eggs that your grocer would pick up at

The one great secret of success in securing eggs in winter is to be prepared for winter when it comes, so that the hens can be warm, well-fed, and busy. With these conditions well in hand, and the proper care, feed, and judgment, your hens should be laying a goodly number of 25-cent eggs all winter.

Why not show this page to some of your friends and neighbors who are keeping hens and ask them to subscribe. This department will be worth more to them than the entire subscription price. Mr. Burgess has a thorough knowledge of the subject and it will be his constant aim to make the department practical to the man who has a few hens.

If one is to keep hens at all, why is it not worth while to learn to care for them so as to obtain the best results. This department will help you to do this

#### Special Offers.

On page 17 you will find some remarkable special offers. Turn to that page and read them. When you can get an excellent publication like Vick's a whole year for only 35 cents, two years for 50 cents, or five full years for only \$1.00, you should not only send your subscription at once but try to get others to do so.

#### The Sunbeams.

"Now what shall I send to the earth today?" Said the great round, golden sun. "Oh, let us go down there to work and play," Said the sunbeams every one.

So down to earth in a shining crowd Went the merry, busy crew;
They painted with splendor each shining cloud And the sky, as they passed through.

The sunbeams then through the window crept To the children in their beds, They poked the eyelids of those who slept And gilded their little heads.

"Wake up, little children," they cried in glee, "And from Dreamland come away, We have brought a present, awake and see We have brought you a sunny day.

-Eleanor Smith.

#### Billy's Angel.

BY MRS. L. D. AVERY-STUTTLE

flakes of snow came down slowly and softly, like white-winged messengers from the other world. Some of them fell on the upturned face of little Billy -dirty and freckled and hungerpinched as it was.

very quietly on the edge of the sidewalk, till his scrawny hands were blue with cold and his ragged coat was cov- ful lady leading a little child much ered with snowy flakes.

Evidently Billy was thinking-yes, and thoughts that had never before, during his seven or eight years of life, entered his tiny head. A week before, Billy had been to the Mission upon the track of the street car. him there, which, as Billy hadn't any home, and was pleased to go where it was "warm" she had no difficulty in about his hunger and cold and

had heard of the good angels, and save that baby! that they were always ready to help little children just when they needed turned; she had seen the danger.

Billy had thought about it every day since, and beautiful dreams of light and warmth and food, in all of which the "angels" bore a prominent The little one was saved, but an unpart, visited him at night when he lucky slip had almost cost him his was curled up in some dark alley or empty box, with his scanty rags drawn about him.

"She said them there angels 'ud allers help a feller," he soliloquized, "and I want nother jacket, and a new pair o' shoes-don't zactly 'member we'en I did get these," carefully wiping the snow from the little blue toes that protruded from what had some time been a pair of shoes. "I jest beleeve I'll start out an' see 'f there hain't mebby one in this here city."

With a new light in his eyes and a big resolve never to stop till he had found his "angel," the child, stiff with cold, and oh, solhungry, started out on his strange errand. \_ He seemed to

Our LITTLE PEOPLE | think it quite impossible for the object | of his search to be found in such a place he will always be a cripple." as Green Alley, anyway, he didn't bepart of the city.

> This, of itself, was a great undertaking for Billy, who thought there gel." was no place for him uptown among the "grand uns," ever since the big policeman had roughly ordered him to "move on" once when he had sad little voices one June morning. stopped to feast his eyes on the tempting looking buns and cakes in a bakery window.

But now he resolutely set his face for "up town." The gorgeous shop windows were almost too much for Billy's resolutions, but he bravely passed them by, for it might take him a long time to find his "angel," and It was New Year's morning. Large he was so tired already. Once he asked a tall, gruff man if he would please to tell him "where the angels lived:" but the man only stared at him, though Billy thought he saw him hastily wipe away a tear; and poor Billy took that as a sure indication He had been sitting a long time that he wasn't on the right road.

> He was making up his mind to try another street, when he saw a beautismaller than he, hastily crossing the street. Presently the lady paused to speak with some one, and for an instant she released the hand of the little one. In a moment the child was almost upon the tiny form!

He forgot all about his angel, all wretchedness, all about everything. For the first time in his short life he He had but one thought—he must

With a shriek of agony the lady Too late? No! Two little half frozen feet and a bundle of rags were flying molasses for her three little children, to the rescue. Just in time! Ah, yes! but not soon enough for Billy. life. One poor little numb foot was crying. What is it all about?" caught under the cruel wheels and mangled and torn. The next thing Billy knew he opened his eyes in Maple street hospital to find himself said Connie. "Not now, anyway." in a real bed, with sheets and a pretty coverlid, and there was the beautiful lady bending over him, holding the child he had saved in her arms, and with tears in her eyes.

The first thought that came to Billy was that he at last had found the object of his search,

"Be you a angel?"

The words came eagerly from the poor pain-drawn lips.

The only answer he heard was, "Oh, doctor, will he live ?"

"Yes, with good care, ma'am, but

As soon as the little hero was lieve an angel would stay there long able, the kind lady took him to live enough for him to speak to him, so he with her in her own lovely home, quickened his steps toward a better where the poor cripple was received as her own son.

And so little Billy found his "an-

#### One Rainy Day.

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!" cried three For it was raining. Not a little rain when one can don rubbers and waterproof and run between the drops and have such fun, but a big downpour when it seemed as if a river was running out of the sky.

Then it began to rain in the house from two pairs of brown eyes and one

"It 'most always rains when you don't want to have it," sighed Connie.

"And when it's your birthday," sobbed Nan.

"And when you're going to dear Uncle Paul's," cried Ted.

Then the door flew open and Clement came in, shaking the rain from his hat and slipping off rubbers and boots.

"Well, isn't this a glorious rain!" he cried.

"Why, the very trees are clapping one day. their leaves for joy, and the flowers are almost laughing outright. Every man I met between here and the village had a broad smile on his face Sabbath school. A kind lady had led Billy's heart stood still. The car was and called out: 'Won't this make the corn grow!' or, 'This will give the grass a start.'

"When I came by Uncle Peter's he was out in his garden and he said: 'Bress de Lawd! de garden's pickin' right up and de chillun is sabed from starbin

"And the Widow Graham, who washes for people, to get bread and is so happy to think her eistern is running over, and she will not have to bring all her water from the brook. Why! I do believe you youngsters are

Then the three children hung their heads for very shame.

"We're not crying—I don't s'pose," "We're glad it rains," said Nan. "We love to have it-sometimes-

don't we, Ted?"
"Yes," said Ted, "we forgot that it was God that made it rain. I'm sorry I was cross about it."

"We need the rain as much as the sunshine," said Clement. "God knows best, and we must not be selfish."

Then the sun shone from two brown eyes and one of blue.

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#### GARDEN NOTES they are every summer. Five inches

#### Starting Winter Hotbeds.

The number of sash that the gardener can use to advantage depends as much as anything on the amount of fresh manure that he can get, at a reasonable price, which we shall consider about \$4 per cord delivered. The cost of starting a hotbed may be considered about \$5 per sash. While this would have been sufficient to put up a very good run two years ago, it is doubtful whether at the present time it could be done for that price. It would include fence, planks, sash, mats and shutters. The sash and shutters should be well painted.

The gardener generally sets his hotbeds in the open field. He first puts up a board fence 6 or 7 ft. high, facing the south and slanting back some 18 or 20 in. at the top. The posts should be 5 or 6 in, through at the top and set 3 ft. in the ground. We hold the boards to the posts by two coach screws to each post. These screws pass through narrow cleats with a large washer between the cleat and the screw-head. The boards are taken down in the summer and used to blanch early celery. We mark every board before it is taken down and then by using each fence by itself there is. very little trouble in putting it up again. We leave the cleats screwed to the post and seldom have to bore a new hole. We set the plank farther from the fence than many, as we wish to have plenty of room to walk between the bed and the mats when they are rolled.

We set a line 3 ft. or a little more. from the bottom of the fence, and from 12 to 15 in, above the ground, and if possible, draw it tight, so as to give the bed as nearly an even fall as possible. It is not well to have the bed exactly level, as the water does not work off so well, but we do not like to have it fall too much. If this line is drawn tight and stakes put in often enough, to prevent it from sagging, all that is necessary to do is to set a line of plank the length you wish the bed. Plank 12 in. wide and 2 in. thick are none too heavy. These are held in place by stakes about 3 ft. long and 3 in. wide, sharpened and driven two to the plank. The end ones should be nailed to both planks and come to the top of the plank to break the joint. It is not so particular about the center ones. Pieces of rough boards are all right for these stakes. Nine-penny nails are the best size to use for nailing the stakes to the plank if the stakes are 1 in. thick, and by nailing through the stake into the by nailing through the stake into the lion there is really but little difference work on the roots, forming galls, plank it does not tear the plank to between the various sorts.—American knots and the like.— Prof. J. B. pieces much when taken down, as Agriculturist.

seems to be about the right amount of New England Homestead.

### Asparagus Culture.

Asparagus is not so readily grown as radishes and turnips, at first, but since one planting endures for ten to twenty years, it pays for the extra care required during the first year or two. It is not necessary to start a plantation from the seed, as there are plenty of reliable persons who make a business of supplying one and two-yearold plants, and at very reasonable prices. In a small way asparagus is grown in beds four feet wide. On a large scale it is grown in the field like any other crop, with rows four feet apart and plants eighteen to twentyfour in the row. In the South the plants may be set out in November. When plants are obtained from Northern localities, it may be in March or later before the plants can be moved from the nursery.

A good sandy loam is the best soil for asparagus. The soil should be deeply broken, working in a liberal application of ground bone, mixed bone from dust up to pieces large as a pea and even much larger. With the bone also, hardwood ashes or cotton hull ashes, a peck each of ashes and bone to every fifteen or twenty square feet. Lav off broad furrows two feet apart if in beds, and deep enough so that the tops of the plants will be three inches below the surface. Trim off all long and broken roots and spread out the remaining roots evenly in every direction in the trench, throw in a little soil and tramp down firmly, sprinkling in at the same time bone meal freely. Finish with covering the plants evenly. One-year-old plants, I think, are preferable, but two-year-old may be used with advantage if put in properly. If the bed is not mulched at once with pine or other straw, weeds must be kept down with the hoe or harrow.

Let the plants grow all they will the following year and the next generally. In the autumn after the frost kills the tops, cut these off nearly to the ground and pile and burn so as to destroy any seeds that mature. The second or third year, according as one or twoyear-old plants were used, cutting may begin this, but should not be too close. After that, take all that you can get: Top-dressings of any good manure should be given every winter if its need is indicated by inferior growth. Conover's Colossal is a good enough variety, but Palmetto, Barr's Mammoth, and Moore's are preferred by other growers. With good cultivation there is really but little difference

#### Insects Injurious to Fruits.

Among the evidences of insect infall on a 6 ft. sash.—H. R. Kinney in juries is the turning brown and dying of the tops of peach trees. In some cases rot is blamable for this, but the injury usually results from a small green caterpillar, the larva of the peach twig borer. This insect, while a common one in some sections of the country, is not very well known in New Jersey. It winters in the crotch of the tree or the limbs, as a caterpillar. Its presence is known by small balls of gum in winter, which exude from little holes in the skin through which the larvae have bored, seeking winter quarters. This pest can be controlled by spraying with paris green about the time the foliage starts in the spring. It seldom does any harm after July 1.

Nursery peach stock is frequently injured by a species of thrips. The damage occurs when the little trees are about 1 ft. high. The tip is attacked, the heart of the plant scraped off and the juices sucked out. The tree is stunted in many cases and is never worth anything. The pest begins his work as soon as the buds start. Seedlings seem to withstand the attack better than budded trees. The pest is the worst during hot weather. About the only way to save the trees is to stimulate early growth by irrigation, and forcing by the use of quick acting fertilizers.

The effects of insecticides on foliage have been studied quite carefully. One rather peculiar fact is that young and tender foliage will stand stronger insecticides than older leaves. Paris green tends to choke the leaf or to close the breathing pores. Crude petroleum should never be used for the paraffin that it contains fills up the pores. It has been frequently observed in orchards that no bad effects follow the application of paris green for some days and even weeks. Then suddenly the leaves appear burned, This is explained by the fact that soon after application, the paris green becomes dry. While in this condition no injury occurs, but when moisture appears through humidity or rain, the soluble arsenic dissolves and the leaves are burned. As an insecticide paris green is by no means perfect. It is not uniform and is very costly. The green arsenoid recently put on the market seems to be much more satis-Soapsuds and weak kerofactory. sene emulsion are the very best applications for all kinds of plant lice

The yellow-necked caterpillar is quite abundant in many orchards, but this may be kept under by the use of arsenical poisons and in some cases by hand picking. The woolly apple louse is on the increase and will undoubtedly cause harm unless checked. most serious injury from this pest is its Smith, New Jersey.



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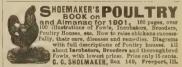
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So on life's highway remember That a difference is plain; There's a side that's bright with pleasure, And a side that's dark with pain. If, perchance, your life is cloudy, Don't forget the way is wide. Look for brightness; it may happen You will find a sunny side

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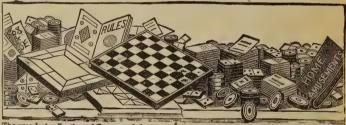
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## To Our Friends.

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With this issue of Vick's Magazine, we greet our old friends with an enlarged and improved publication. There has been some delay in getting out the magazine due to necessary arrangements in changing to the present form, and other causes beyond our control.

We are now better prepared than ever before to issue the magazine promptly. With ample capital and a complete modern printing plant at our command, we shall be able to give greater value for the money than any similar publication in America.

We aim to make the magazine one for the whole family and to make it thoroughly practical. The expense which has heretofore gone into colored plates will go to enlarge the paper. We believe this change will meet the approval of every subscriber. To accomplish still further improvements, we desire to increase our circulation to 100,000, that we may command a liberal advertising patronage. We wish to enlist the services of every subscriber and will pay you liberally for your work. We have decided to make a special offer for a limited time, to accept yearly subscriptions at 35c. if accompanied by one of the attached coupons, or we will send the paper two full years for only 50c. if sent with a coupon. Those sending a coupon and \$1.00 will receive the magazine for five years. These rates are surely liberal. We will accept new subscriptions or renewals at these rates.

Will you not please show this copy of the magazine to your friends and neighbors and obtain their subscriptions? If you send us three subscriptions at the above rates, we will credit your subscription on our books for one year. For five subscriptions we will credit yours for two years; and for eight subscriptions, we will credit yours for five years. If you desire sample copies with which to work we will cheerfully send them. We will allow a cash commission if you prefer and will give terms on application.

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tol and Governor Roger Wolcott during the last weeks of the century. Massachusetts and the country have lost two conspicuous figures and noble ment deems desirable to facilitate commen. The former was born in 1813 mercial relations; (11) The prohibiand was a representative of transcention of the importation of arms into dentalism, a type of individualism, whether in church or state, which the grand old man lived to see lose its in-Revolutionary days. Roger Wolcott historical subjects. He was the au-Boston Common Council up through merit. the Legislature to the Governor's chair. His party affiliations and loyalty were such as to commend him to men irrespective of party considerations.

China agrees to accept the terms of the powers which will leave than the year before and the number things about as follows: 1) To of births over deaths was only about pay an indemnity of 700,000,000 30,000. According to the statistical taels within sixty years; (2) To showing of nations this means that erect in Pekin a suitable monument to Baron von Ketteler and other number required merely to maintain monuments in cemeteries that were her present population. It is stated, desecrated; (3) An imperial prince that, for the past thirteen years the and near relative to the emperor, to ratio of births, in Germany, on the go to Berlin and express regrets for the murder; (4) Foreign troops to that of France, and that if this conhold the lines of communication be- tinues for seven years more, Germany tween Taku and Pekin; (5) Pun- which was about the size of France ishment of the boxer officials includ- at the time of the Franco-German ing the death penalty upon several war, will have twice as many people princes and dignitaries; (6) Candi- as France. dates in districts where anti-foreign outrages were perpetrated not to be brief review of the important events allowed to compete in the Chinese of the previous month, each issue. examinations in Pekin for five years; By reading it carefully one can keep (7) The Taku forts and those that pretty well informed about what is might prevent free communication be- going on in the world. Young people tween the capital and the sea to be should read this department each razed; (8) Foreign envoys to be remonth. Get three subscriptions at ceived at court in ways defined by the our special rates and receive the magapowers; (9) The Chinese govern- zine a year free. For five subscripment shall issue and post decrees tions we will send it to you two years against the interference with the per- and for eight we will send it to you sons or property of foreigners and five years.

CURRENT EVENTS holding the viceroys responsible for the maintainance of order in their In the deaths of Dr. Cyrus A. Bar- provinces; (10) The Chinese government shall enter upon negotiations for the alteration of such commercial and navigation treaties as the govern-China shall be maintained till further notice

The death of Professor Moses Coit dividuality. He was the pastor of Tyler of Cornell University, on Dec. "The Independent Congregational 29, removes a distinguished literary Church" of Boston for over half a man and educator from a prominent century. During a part of that time place. He was born at Griswold, he was the colleague of Rev. Charles Conn., August 2, 1835, and was edu-Lowell, the father of James Russell cated at Yale and Andover. For two Lowell. Dr. Bartol was a unique years he was pastor of the First Conman, small and spare—one in whom gregational church at Poughkeepsie, everybody took a friendly interest and N. Y. In 1867 he was appointed prowanted to see. Governor Wolcott fessor of English language and literawas eminently clean and patriotic ture in the University of Michigan, in his public and private life. The and there established a high reputafamily history that is behind him tion as a painstaking, accurate hisis notable. One of his ancestors torian, largely endowed with the apwas prominent in the famous ex- preciation of the value, proportion pedition against Louisburg in 1745; and significance of events. In 1881, another was one of the signers he resigned to accept the chair of of the Declaration of Independence; American History at Cornell, which he still another took an active part in the occupied until his death. For many famous "Boston Tea Party," while years he was a frequent contributor to others were conspicuous figures in the leading reviews and magazines on arose to eminence step by step, from the thor of several publications of genuine

> It appears that the alarming facts that have been commented upon during the past years concerning the decrease in France's birthrate are becoming more and more startling. In 1899 there were about 10,000 less births France was 250,000 births short of the other hand, has been twice as great as

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